MARVEL® COMICS

AVENGERS®

AUG '96 401

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

AVENGERS®

GUEST-STARRING: MAGNETO® AND ROGUE® OF THE X-MEN!

SINS OF THE FATHER!

ONSLAUGHT™ PHASE 1

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DEODATO PALMER

AVENGERS MANSION.

NO T'ANKS, MON AMI. LOOKIN' A LITTLE CROWDED. I'LL MAKE MY OWN WAY TO DE ROOF.

NEW RULES, GAMBIT. WE NO LONGER LEAVE FROM THE ROOF.

THERE'S ROOM FOR ONE MORE... BUT THE CLOCK'S TICKING. COME ON.

GAMBIT--ONE OF THE MUTANTS KNOWN AS THE X-MEN--IS OUT OF HIS ELEMENT AND NOT THRILLED ABOUT IT.

HE'S NOT USED TO DEALING WITH FULL-FLEDGED SUPER HEROES.. BUT IF ANYONE CAN HELP HIM IN HIS APPOINTED MISSION...

...THEY CAN.

THOR.

QUICKSILVER.

SCARLET WITCH.

IRON MAN.

CAPTAIN AMERICA.

THE VISION.

TOGETHER, THEY ARE...

--THE AVENGERS!

LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO, THEY FOUND THE X-MEN BEATEN-- NEARLY DESTROYED-- BY THEIR OWN MENTOR--CHARLES XAVIER--

--NOW THE ALL-POWERFUL ONSLAUGHT.

SO EVERYONE'S CLEAR ON THE MISSION? THERE'S SOME SUSPICION THAT MAGNETO MIGHT SOMEHOW BE BEHIND XAVIER'S TRANSFORMATION--

--SO IT'S UP TO US TO FIND MAGNETO--

--AND BRING HIM IN!

EVERYBODY READY?

WHOOF!

ZOOMIN' MIGHTY FAST DOWN A MIGHTY SHORT TUBE, CAP!

HOW COME DE FAR DOOR IS STILL CLOSED?

RELAX, GAMBIT. THE NEW QUINJET HASN'T HAD A FULL SHAKEDOWN CRUISE YET...

...BUT I TRUST IRON MAN'S LAUNCH DESIGN.

THANKS.

I'M VERY EXCITED BY IT. EVERYONE AGREED THAT THE NOISE POLLUTION ALONE FROM A ROOF DEPARTURE WAS UNBEARABLE.

WITH THAT IN MIND, I RECONFIGURED THE N.A.S.A. CODE-SEVEN SPECS FOR SPACE-STATION SHUTTLES...

...FITTED AN AFTERBURN RECOIL TO MAXIMIZE THRUST...

...COATED THE TITANIUM TRACKS WITH A NEAR-FRICTIONLESS GEL POLYMER...

HOW DOES THE DOOR WORK?

...INTEGRATED A PAULING MAGNOTRACK UNDER THE...

WHOOPS.

KLIK

HATCH SENSORS

ENGAGED

CLANK!

VWOOOSH!

"WHOOPS?"

SORRY. GOT CARRIED AWAY.

SO... DO WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE'RE GOING YET?

MARK WAID - story
MIKE DEODATO - breakdowns
TOM PALMER - finishes
BILL OAKLEY - letters
JOHN KALISZ - colors
MARK GRUENWALD - editor
BOB HARRAS - editor in chief

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

SINS OF THE FATHER!

WE HAVE A GENERAL IDEA. HANK'S STARTED PINNING DOWN THE SPECIFICS.

STARTED AND FINISHED. I THINK I HAVE HIM, CAP.

ACCORDING TO THE X-MEN, CEREBRO--

--THAT'S THEIR MUTANT-TRACKING DEVICE--

--AND AN AMAZING PIECE OF WORK, I MIGHT ADD--A GENETIC SENSOR WAY AHEAD OF ANYTHING IN MY LAB--

HANK? I'VE ALREADY HAD ENOUGH TECHNOBABBLE FOR ONE DAY.

AH. WELL, CEREBRO'S BEEN BAFFLED BY MAGNETO IN THE PAST, SO WE CAN'T COUNT ON IT TO ZERO IN.

HOWEVER... IN COMBING THE WORLD FOR ERRANT ELECTROMAGNETIC ACTIVITY, I'VE FOUND A SERIES OF SPIKES IN SOUTH CAROLINA THAT SEEM TO MATCH MAGNETO'S ENERGY SIGNATURE.

I'VE SET THE COMPUTERS TO RELAY COORDINATES DIRECTLY TO THE QUINJET. I HAVE TO GET MOVING.

WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA TO LOOK IN ON FRANKLIN RICHARDS. APPARENTLY, ONSLAUGHT SEEMS VERY INTERESTED IN THE BOY.

OVER AND OUT.

I FIND MYSELF CONFUSED.

MY LIMITED EXPOSURE TO CHARLES XAVIER LED ME TO CONCLUDE THAT HE WAS A DECENT MAN.

HE IS. AS MUTANTS OURSELVES, MY SISTER WANDA AND I KNOW XAVIER BETTER THAN ANY AVENGER... AND WE HAVE BENEFITTED FROM HIS NOBILITY TIME AND AGAIN.

BUT IF OUR FATHER IS SOMEHOW BEHIND THIS SINISTER TRANSFORMATION... IF MAGNETO IS CONTROLLING XAVIER'S UNCHARACTERISTIC ACTIONS FROM AFAR...

...THAT EXPLAINS MUCH.

HE *LIKES* T'CONTROL MUTANTS, *eh*, CHERE? WHAT WAS IT LIKE BEIN' PART O' HIS *BROTHER-HOOD* ALL DEM YEARS AGO?

FOUL. *DEGRADING.*

"HIS NOTIONS OF *KINDNESS* AND *BENEVOLENCE* WERE *REPULSIVE.*

"WHENEVER I WAVERED IN MY LOYALTY FOR A *HEARTBEAT*... WHENEVER I TOYED WITH THE NOTION OF *LEAVING* HIS SERVICE, HE WOULD...

"IT'S *TRUE* HE TOOK PIETRO AND MYSELF UNDER HIS *WING*, EVEN *BEFORE* WE KNEW WE WERE *RELATED*...

"...BUT WE WERE NOT PARTICULARLY WELL-*CARED* FOR IN HIS DARK, DANK *CASTLE.*

"MASTERMIND AND TOAD, IN *PARTICULAR*, WERE... *UNPLEASANT* COMPANIONS.

"OF COURSE, MAGNETO WOULD OFTEN PUT THEM IN THEIR *PLACE*...

"...FIND A WAY TO *HOLD ON* TO ME.

"TIGHTLY."

"...LESS TO PROTECT *ME* THAN TO ESTAB-LISH HIS *OWN* DOMINANCE.

"CONSIDERABLE TIME HAS PASSED SINCE THEN. I HAVE GROWN STRONGER... COME TO TERMS WITH MUCH OF WHAT ONCE FRIGHTENED ME.

"BUT NEVER HAVE I BEEN MORE TERRIFIED THAN AT THE FEET OF A MAN WHO COULD KILL ME WITH A THOUGHT.

"AROUND HIM, I WAS FRAGILE... VULNERABLE.

"I CANNOT BE CERTAIN... THAT I WILL NOT BE AGAIN."

FORGIVE US, WANDA--BUT WE ARE NOT USED TO HEARING YOU SPEAK IN SUCH A MANNER.

EVEN I HAVE NEVER HEARD YOU REFER TO THOSE EARLY DAYS... LIKE THAT.

IT IS NOT YOUR CONCERN, VISION.

HE WILL NOT HURT YOU, MY SISTER. I PROMISE. I WILL NOT LET HIM.

PIETRO, NO. YOU AND I-- WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT ANYMORE--

HUSH. I WILL PROTECT YOU... ALWAYS.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

I SURE HOPE YOU TWO YOUNG'UNS AIN'T IN ANY KINDA HURRY.

PALMER'S GARAGE

CAN'T FIX Y'R BUG... NOT WITHOUT GETTIN' IT UP ON THE LIFT FOR A LOOK UNDERNEATH...

...AND THE LIFT CONTROL DONE BROKE ON ME.

I CAN'T SEE NO WAY'A GETTIN' THIS CAR UP IN TH' AIR.

THESE THEM LI'L OL' CONTROLS YOU WAS SPEAKIN' ABOUT? WHY, THEY DON'T LOOK T'BE ALL THAT BROKE...

HON--DON'T OPEN THAT--

--DON'T TOUCH THE--

--MA'AM--!

DARLIN' YOU DON'T WANNA MESS UP THEM PRETTY LI'L NAILS!

WHY DON'T Y'ALL LEAVE ALL THAT COMPLICATED MECHANICAL WORK...

...TO THE PROS...?

WHY, LOOKATHERE. RECKON I MUSTA JIGGERED THE RIGHT DOODAD AFTER ALL.

WE'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR.

NICELY PLAYED.

HOW ARE YOUR NAILS, "DARLIN'"?

WHO CARES?

LET'S FIND SOME LUNCH AT THE SHIPYARD. I'M BUYIN'.

YOU DO COME IN HANDY...

SHE'S TRYING HARD NOT TO FLIRT.

AND FAILING MISERABLY.

HER NAME IS ROGUE... A FORMER X-MAN WHO RECENTLY LEFT THE TEAM TO ESTABLISH HER OWN LIFE...

...ONLY TO HAVE IT INVADED...

...BY HIM.

SHE ONCE KNEW HIM AS MAGNETO... BEFORE HE CROSSED HER PATH DE-AGED AND AMNESIAC.*

RENAMED "JOSEPH," HE REMEMBERS NOTHING OF HIS FORMER LIFE AS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS IN RECORDED HISTORY.

SHE'D LIKE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

* X-MEN UNLIMITED #11.

SHE SEES A SPECIAL SOMETHING IN THIS MAN... A CHARM SHE'S KNOWN IN ONLY ONE OTHER. HENCE THE ROAD TRIP.

SHE'S TAKING HIM TO THE X-MEN IN HOPES OF HIDING HIM... KEEPING HIM FROM THAT PAST.

IT'S A DANGEROUS GAME. AFTER ALL, MAGNETO STILL BUBBLES SOMEWHERE INSIDE HIM. SHE KNOWS SHE'S HANDLING A LIVE GRENADE...

...AND IF HE LEARNS TOO MUCH ABOUT THE PAST TOO QUICKLY...

...WELL, THAT JUST MAY PULL THE PIN. SHE'S GOT TO KEEP A GUARD UP... WHICH IS WHY THEY'VE BEEN TRAVELLING BY CAR.

INCOGNITO.

THE OBJECTIVE...

...IS TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE.

THERE HE IS! YOUNGER SOMEHOW...

...BUT I'D KNOW HIM ANYWHERE!

EASY, PIETRO! THERE MAY BE INNOCENTS AROUND, IN DANGER...

...SO WATCH OUT!

PIETRO!

TELL HIM THAT!

FIAT!

HE'LL HAVE NO MORE INNOCENTS UNDER HIS THRALL! I SWEAR THIS WITH ALL MY--

QUICK-SILVER?

ROGUE?

ROGUE?

YOU MONSTER! YOU DARE CLAIM ANOTHER ONE?!

REMY...?

PIETRO, CALM YOURSELF! HE'S DOWN!

DOWN, YES...

...BUT

NOT

OUT!

PERHAPS A CHOKING VORTEX--

LEAVE HIM ALONE! Y'ALL DON'T KNOW WHAT Y'R MESSIN' WITH--!

ENOUGH, PIETRO.

WHAT, THEN, ARE WE MISSING, ROGUE?

IS THIS NOT ERIK MAGNUS LENSHERR--

--SELF-PROCLAIMED RIGHTFUL RULER OF THE MUTANT RACE--

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! Y'R PLAYIN' WITH FIRE!

DON'T SAY ANY-THING!

--AND IN THE EYES OF MANY THE WORLD OVER--

--THE MOST RUTHLESS, MOST SADISTIC, MOST HEINOUS--

WHAM

SHUT UP!!

ROGUE?

ODIN'S BLOOD! WHAT MADNESS HAS SEIZED HER?

MY QUESTION EXACTLY...

...THOUGH I T'INK WE GOT A SILVER-HAIRED CLUE!

FOLLOW HER!

Huh. HE'S DEFINITELY YOUNGER THAN I FIGURED HIM TO BE.

LOT OF THAT GOING AROUND...

TRUE ENOUGH. THE TEEN INSIDE THE IRON MAN ARMOR IS RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED...

...AND, LIKE THE REST OF THE AVENGERS, KEENLY AWARE OF THE INCALCULABLE MIGHT MAGNETO COMMANDS.

AND THOUGH, INSTINCTIVELY, HE REACHES FORTH TO LIFT THE DAZED FIGURE TO HIS FEET...

...HIS HESITANCY BETRAYS A PARANOIA...

...EVEN STRONGER IN OTHERS.

IRON MAN, LOOK OUT!

AT THE SHOUT, THE PALMS OF HELPING HANDS IRIS OPEN... REPULSOR RAYS SPARK INTO READINESS.

THE IMPLIED THREAT...

KHOOM!

...IS ACKNOWLEDGED.

AND SOMETHING INSIDE WANDA STIRS...

...COLDLY.

MEANWHILE, GAMBIT TRIES TO MAKE SENSE OF THE SENSELESS.

ONCE UPON A TIME, HE TRUSTED ROGUE MORE THAN HE'D EVER TRUSTED ANYONE. AT THIS MOMENT, AND FOR MORE THAN ONE REASON...

...HE CAN'T IMAGINE WHY THAT WAS.

I'M WARNIN' Y'ALL! HE COULD EXPLODE! Y'DON'T UNDERSTAND TH' DAMAGE Y'ALL COULD BE DOIN' JUST BY BEIN' HERE!

IT'S DAMAGE WE'VE COME TO CONTAIN.

I WONDER... HOW MANY OTHER MINDS IS MAGNETO CONTROLLING, ROGUE? YOURS, PERHAPS?

PUZZLED BY THE QUESTION, SHE ALLOWS THOR TO MOVE PERILOUSLY CLOSE--

--BUT WITH A BLOW THAT COULD SHATTER DIAMONDS--

WHAT ARE Y'ALL TALKIN' ABOUT? HE AIN'T CONTROLLIN' ANYTHING!

THWAM!

--SHE MAKES HIM BLINK.

A BLOW WORTHY OF A FROST GIANT! I AM IMPRESSED!

Y'THINK? THEN BE READY, 'CAUSE I'M ABOUT T'GET DOWNRIGHT AMAZIN' ON YOUR BIG NORSE--

?

FCHOW! FCHOW! FCHOW!

STOP!

OKAY, CHERE-- YOU TELLIN' DE TRUTH! I'LL GAMBLE ON DAT! BUT YOU GOTTA TELL US--

--WHAT'S GOIN' ON WIT' MAGNETO?

TOO MUCH.

ALL AT ONCE.

WITH ONE HAND, HE REPELS THE IRON IN QUICKSILVER'S BLOOD, FLINGING HIM MILES.

WITH THE OTHER, HE CREATES A FIELD AROUND CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD, TURNING IT INTO AN INVULNERABLE BLUDGEON.

AND WITH BOTH HANDS, THE SCARLET WITCH CONJURES A HEX AND ACTS--

--TOO LATE.

THE MEMORY-- AND THE FEAR-- WRAP AROUND HER EVEN FASTER THAN ANY COCOON.

THE TERROR OF REMEMBRANCE KNIFES THROUGH HER.

SHE HAS SUFFERED ABUSE AT HIS HANDS SO MANY--

NO.

NOT HER.

ANOTHER WANDA. ONE YOUNGER... FRAGILE AND VULNERABLE.

ONE WHO HAD NOT YET FOUND THE STRENGTH TO FACE HER FEARS...

...AND FIGHT...

...TO BREAK FREE OF THEM.

GHUH!

I... I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YOUR VOICE... YOUR MANNER...

...YOU'RE... NOT HIM...

...SO LIKE I WAS SAYIN', HE AIN'T TH' MAGNETO Y'ALL KNOW... AND I'M TRYIN' T' KEEP HIM THAT WAY! Y'SEE?

DESPITE WHAT HE MIGHTA DONE IN TH' PAST--

"--HE'S NOT A MONSTER!"

SHE CAN SEE THAT NOW.

THERE IS A MERCY IN HIS EYES THAT CUTS THROUGH HER SUSPICIONS. THIS IS NOT THE MAGNETO SHE FEARED.

UNFORTUNATELY...

...HER BROTHER DOESN'T KNOW THAT.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.

SHE CAN LET HER BROTHER PROTECT HER...

...AS HE ALWAYS HAS...

...AND TAKE AWAY HER FEARS...

...AS HE ALWAYS WILL.

FOOM

:KOFF:

THE PIER... SHATTERED?

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

NO...

...MERELY IMPROBABLE.

AND THAT'S MY SPECIALTY.

WANDA STAY BACK! I WILL--

NO, PIETRO. YOU WILL NOT.

I AM IN CONTROL HERE.

FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL, PIETRO... I AM NO LONGER THE FRIGHTENED GIRL WHO NEEDS HER IMPETUOUS BROTHER TO RESCUE HER.

...NOR IS HE THE TYRANT UNDER WHOM WE HAVE BOTH SUFFERED.

PERHAPS TODAY... WE CAN BOTH PUT THE PAST BEHIND US.

...AND THAT'S THE STORY. THE X-MEN TRIED TO CONTAIN PROFESSOR XAVIER... AND COULD NOT.

AND YOU THOUGHT MAGNETO--JOSEPH --HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT?

WE THINK HE MAY HAVE HAD EVERYTHING TO DO WITH IT, BUT WE CAN'T BE SURE TO WHAT EXTENT TILL WE GET HIM BACK TO NEW YORK...

I STILL DON'T COMPREHEND MUCH OF WHAT'S GOING ON...

...BUT IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP...

...IT DOES SEEM I HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL THIS.

MY APOLOGIES FOR OVER-REACTING, IRON MAN.

Eh. QUICKSILVER. WHADDAYA GONNA DO, huh?

THEN YOU OKAY, CHERE? STILL YOUR OWN WOMAN?

ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, REMY. BUT THEN, YOU KNOW THAT.

YEAH. I DO.

THEN LET US GO. WE HAVE A WORLD TO SAVE...

"...TOGETHER."

FOR MORE ON GIANT-MAN'S TEAM, SEE FANTASTIC FOUR #415--

--THEN FOLLOW THE ASSEMBLED AVENGERS INTO THE PAGES OF X-MEN #55!